

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-13 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 OIC-04 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00

USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /234 W

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R 021510Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 931

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 4083

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, ID

SUBJ: INDONESIAN SCHEDULE XXI

REF (A) GENEVA 2627 (B) STATE 035893

1. GATT SECRETARIAT (LINDEN AND LUNDGREN) DISCUSSED WITH ECONCOUNSELOR JULY 31 STATUS OF THEIR UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF INDONESIA'S GATT SCHEDULE. SECRETARIAT IS STYMIED BY THEIR INABILITY GET VERY MANY FACTS FROM OR THROUGH LOCAL INDONESIAN REP AND ASKED US MISSION SEEK WASHINGTON ADVICE ON WHAT US THINKS SHOULD BE DONE NEXT.

2. MEETING OCCASIONED BY SEC'S RECEIPT OF MEMO FROM INDONESIAN REP PURPORTING TO BE BASIC DOCUMENT FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF INDONESIAN ECONOMY TENTATIVELY PLANNED THIS FALL; IN FORWARDING MEMO, INDO REP SAID HE HOPED BOP COMMITTEE WOULD AGREE HOLD ONLY A MINI-CONSULTATION UNDER NEW PROCEDURES (I.E. TAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTE OF INDONESIAN SUBMISSION WITHOUT DISCUSSION) RATHER

THAN SCHEDULE A FULL CONSULTATION REQUIRING TRAVEL OF EXPERTS FROM JAKARTA. GOI MEMO INTER ALIA REVEALS INDONESIA APPLIES SURCHARGES BUT LITTLE OR NO INTELLIGIBLE BOP RATIONALE IS CONTAINED IN MEMO, NOR DOES IT CONTAIN DESCRIPTION OF SURCHARGE RATES OR PRODUCTS TO WHICH THEY APPLY. SEC OFFICIAL WHO BACKSTOPS BOP COMMITTEE OBSERVED IT WOULD BE UNUSUAL FOR BOP COMMITTEE SIMPLY TO "NOTE" EXISTENCE OF SURCHARGES (WHICH TECHNICALLY VIOLATE GATT ARTICLE II IF APPLIED TO BOUND ITEMS) WITHOUT HOLDING A DETAILED BOP CONSULTATION WITH PRIOR IMF FINDING. SEC ALSO COMMENTED FULL CONSULTATION MAY BE WASTE OF TIME FOR EVERYONE UNLESS GOI HAS (AND IS WILLING TO SEND) A COMPETENT OFFICIAL WHO CAN COMMUNICATE IN ENGLISH OR FRENCH. SEC FURTHER OBSERVED THERE ARE SOME LDC GATT CPS WHO APPLY (OR AT ONE TIME APPLIED) SURCHARGES WITHOUT BOTHERING TO CONSULT GATT.

3. CONCERNING INDONESIA'S GATT SCHEDULE, SEC REPORTS IT HAS ONLY FRAGMENTARY INFO. INDONESIA'S GATT REP REPORTS HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO GET FROM JKARTA COMPLETE COPY OF TARIFF WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT JAN 31 OR CONCORDANCE WITH OLD TARIFF. SEC UNCLEAR WHETHER A CONCORDANCE EXISTS. INDONESIAN REP GAVE SEC A LARGE BOUND VOLUME LISTING NEW TARIFF ITEMS PER BTN AND HEADINGS LISTING VARIOUS CHARGES (INCLUDING SURCHARGES) BUT VOLUME CONTAINS NO RPT NO RATES OF DUTIES (ALL COLUMNS BLANK). INDONESIAN REP ALSO FORWARDED A PAMPHLET (IN INDONESIAN) SHOWING SOME TARIFF RATES BUT SEVERAL BTN CHAPTERS ARE INEXPLICABLY MISSING. SEC UNABLE USE THIS TO TRACE STATUS OF BINDINGS IN ABSENCE OF CONCORDANCE AND DOCUMENT IN ANY CASE INCOMPLETE. SECRETARIAT FEELS IT IS UNLIKELY TO BE PROFITABLE TO TRY TO PURSUE THIS MATTER VIA LOCAL INDONESIAN REP; THEY HAVE UNEASY FEELING LATTER DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE SAYING AND SURMISE THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR ABSENCE OF RESPONSE TO SEVERAL INQUIRIES RECENT MONTHS (REFTAL A).

4. SEC CHECKED WITH BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS TARIFF BUREAU (PUBLISHERS OF WORLD TARIFFS) AND WAS TOLD THEY HAVE A COPY IN INDONESIAN WHICH THEY HOPE TO TRANSLATE AND PUBLISH IN EARLY 1974).
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5. SECRETARIAT SAID THEY WISHED CONSULT US ABOUT WHAT WE THOUGHT NEXT STEPS SHOULD BE. FOLLOWING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED:

- (A) COULD US GET COPY OF CURRENT INDONESIAN TARIFF VIA AMEMBASSY JAKARTA?
- (B) CAN US ASCERTAIN WHETHER GOI HAS A CONCORDANCE

BETWEEN OLD AND NEW TARIFF (SEC UNDERSTANDS NEW INDONESIAN
TARIFF WAS DEVELOPED WITH ASSISTANCE OF AMERICAN ADVISORS)?

(C) CAN US OBTAIN DETAILS ABOUT SURCHARGE RATES AND
PRODUCTS TO WHICH THEY APPLY?

(D) IS US WILLING TO ACQUIESCE IN GOI APPLICATION OF
SURCHARGES WITHOUT DEMANDING GATT EXAMINATION OF RATIONALE
AND PERHAPS WAIVER IF THEY APPLY TO BOUND ITEMS?

(E) IS US AGREEABLE TO A MINI RATHER THAN FULL BOP
CONSULTATION WITH INDONESIA IN FALL?

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON QUESTIONS PARA 5.

BASSIN

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